

**EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 1 APRIL 2015**

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## **NORTH EAST DERBYSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

**HELD ON 1 APRIL 2015**

#### **Present:**

Councillor Mrs T Reader..... Chair

Councillor Mrs A Holmes ..... Vice Chair

Councillor J Allsop

“ Mrs P Antcliff

“ Mrs J Austen

“ N Barker

“ G Baxter MBE

“ G Butler

“ A Cooper

“ J A Dargue

“ P Elliott

“ Mrs C F Ellis

“ S Ellis

“ Miss M Emmens

“ N Foster

“ M Gordon

“ R Hall

Councillor Mrs P Hemsley

“ Mrs E A Hill

“ Mrs J Hill

“ C Hunt

“ H Laws

“ W Lilleyman

“ G Morley

“ B Rice

“ B Ridgway

“ Mrs C A Smith

“ L Stone

“ M E Thacker

“ Miss P Williams

“ J Windle

*Before the start of the meeting, Council observed a moment's silence in memory of former Councillor Margaret Treweek, who had recently passed away.*

#### **731 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors B Barnes, Mrs A Blackburn, P Blackburn, Mrs N C Dolby, Mrs A Foster, K Gillott, Mrs C D Huckerby, P R Kerry, B Lewis, J C McGrory, D S Oxspring, G P Ramshaw, Mrs J Rigdway, Mrs L Robinson, K Savidge, D Skinner and B Wright.

#### **732 Declarations of Interest**

Members were requested to declare the existence and nature of any Disclosable Pecuniary Interest and/or other interest, not already on their register of interests, in any item on the agenda and withdraw from the meeting at the appropriate time.

There were no interests declared at this meeting.

**733 Exclusion of Public**

RESOLVED - That the public be excluded from the meeting during the discussion of the following item of business to avoid the disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1, 2 and 3, Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, (as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006).

**734 Review of the role of the Joint Chief Executive Officer and Head of Paid Service**

Council considered a report of the Leaders of Bolsover and North East Derbyshire District Councils, which outlined options for the future role of the Joint Chief Executive Officer and Head of Paid Services within the Strategic Alliance.

Since the beginning of the Alliance, the Councils had succeeded in achieving nearly £2m of savings across the two authorities. Continued Central Government funding reductions also saw the Council embark on a five year financial strategy, acknowledging that continued Central Government funding through the Revenue Support Grant would almost certainly cease by the end of 2017/18, requiring both authorities to become self financing.

Consequently the importance of economic growth initiatives was recognised by the development and production of a five year Economic Growth Strategy. Under this Strategy, £2m would be required through economic growth, reflecting its importance as the Council's number one priority.

Since the new management structure's implementation at the start of 2014, the Economic Growth Directorate had been led by the Chief Executive Officer. The original management structure had considered having a Joint Director of Growth but left it undetermined as a decision for the future. Recent developments, such as Combined Authorities and Devolution Deals meant that economic growth, knowledge and experience was integral to the role of the Chief Executive Officer to make the most of opportunities to achieve success in delivering the necessary outcomes.

With the impending election and therefore new Councils from May, it was timely to implement a change that secured the best possible chance for achieving the necessary economic growth outcomes and consequently the financial stability of both Councils.

A number of options were set out in the report, including continuing with the current arrangements, introducing a post of Director of Economic Growth, appointing a new Director and abolishing the post of Chief Executive Officer and appointing a new Chief Executive Officer with the relevant qualifications, knowledge and experience of economic growth, in addition to the normal attributes you would expect of a good Chief Executive Officer. This final option would require the current Chief Executive Officer being released under efficiency of service reasons.

It was considered that option four was the one that suited the Alliance as it ensured a suitable Joint Chief Executive Officer who also had the relevant economic growth experience to progress the Councils' number one priority. Details of the process to be followed was set out in the report.

**RESOLVED** – That:-

- (1) The current Chief Executive post holder be released under the efficiency of the service on a date to be agreed with the Leaders of both Councils and with full pay in lieu of notice.
- (2) An immediate procurement exercise be undertaken to engage a suitable recruitment consultant to carry out and advise on the appointment of a new Joint Chief Executive Officer with the skills described in the report.
- (3) A working group of members be set up to oversee the process and that Council appoint the Leader, Deputy Leader and the Portfolio Holder for Human Resources at North East Derbyshire District Council to the working party.
- (4) The Assistant Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer be given delegated power, in consultation with the working party, to approve the recruitment process and to do anything necessary to ensure that the recruitment process runs smoothly.
- (5) North East Derbyshire appoints members to the Joint Appointments Panel at a future meeting.
- (6) The Joint Appointments Panel makes its recommendations on the appointment to the two Councils.
- (7) Each Council has an Extraordinary Council in order to make an appointment to the joint post at the end of the recruitment process.

(Assistant Director – Governance & Monitoring Officer)  
(Paragraphs 1, 2 & 3)

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